

REMARKS

Claims 19-38 remain in the application. All of the claims have been finally rejected under Section 102 based on U.S. 6,909,990 (Okazaki). Although the claims were amended in response to the prior office action, the final rejection presents the same rejections under Section 102, asserting that the Okazaki reference discloses all of the claimed features. To support this contention, the Final Office Action addresses applicants' argument that, with reference to claim 19, the prior art does not disclose

“gathering and storing in a first database relevant causation data of performance limits **for a plurality of related installations** ...[Emphasis Added]”

and that, with reference to the device of claim 32, the prior art does not disclose

“a first database that contains data about causes of malfunctions in a plurality of installations and improvement measure data ...”

The Examiner has offered Figure 7 of Okazaki as well as the passage at column 6, lines 45-62 to refute the Applicants' contention. Applicants acknowledge that these citations do refer to provision of two computer systems, however, the structure and method of the claims is not met. For example, nothing in the prior art suggests a database containing causation data for a plurality of installations. Even if the Examiner were correct, that the diagnosis computer 30 of Figure 7 might have its own data base, there is no single database which contains causation data for multiple organizations. None of the citations in the Okazaki reference provide any evidence of such.

Furthermore, the very passage cited at page 7 of the Final Office Action clearly falls short of disclosing the claimed features. The passage only states that a diagnosis computer may be composed of a single or a plurality of computers in charge of different functions, such as transmission, diagnosis and data storage for plural locations or plants. This is not the same as having one database which includes causation data for a plurality of related installations. Furthermore, there is nothing in the Okazaki reference which would imply any use made of such a database. That is, the reference does not disclose any activity which would suggest that such a database would exist.

MPEP §2131 provides that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as **complete** detail as contained in the claim.

The claimed invention includes advantageous embodiments not suggested by the prior art. For example, the first database can be permanently installed at a central point, e.g., on the premises of a technical services provider, while the second database can be located at the site of the installation under investigation. Thus the first database can be updated at a central point and can represent a comprehensive pool of knowledge about problems which have already occurred in other installations such that the stored information relating to other installations may be applied to determine the cause of a problem identified in the installation under study.

For all of these reasons it is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed invention and allowance is requested.

Conclusion


Applicants again submit that the rejection under Section 102 is in error and should be removed. If the Examiner still disagrees, then **it is incumbent on the Examiner to issue an advisory action which specifically identifies support in the Okazaki reference for "a first database that contains data about causes of malfunctions in a plurality of installations and improvement measure data ..."** It is submitted that no such support exists.

Allowance of this application is requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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